

FALL, 1976

Our Public Lands



DUNES and BUGGIES



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE
INTERIOR

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Curt Berklund, Director

As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has basic responsibilities for water, fish, wildlife, mineral, land, park, and recreational resources. Indian and Territorial affairs are other major concerns of America's "Department of Natural Resources."

The Department works to assure the wisest choice in managing all our resources so each will make its full contribution to a better United States — now and in the future.

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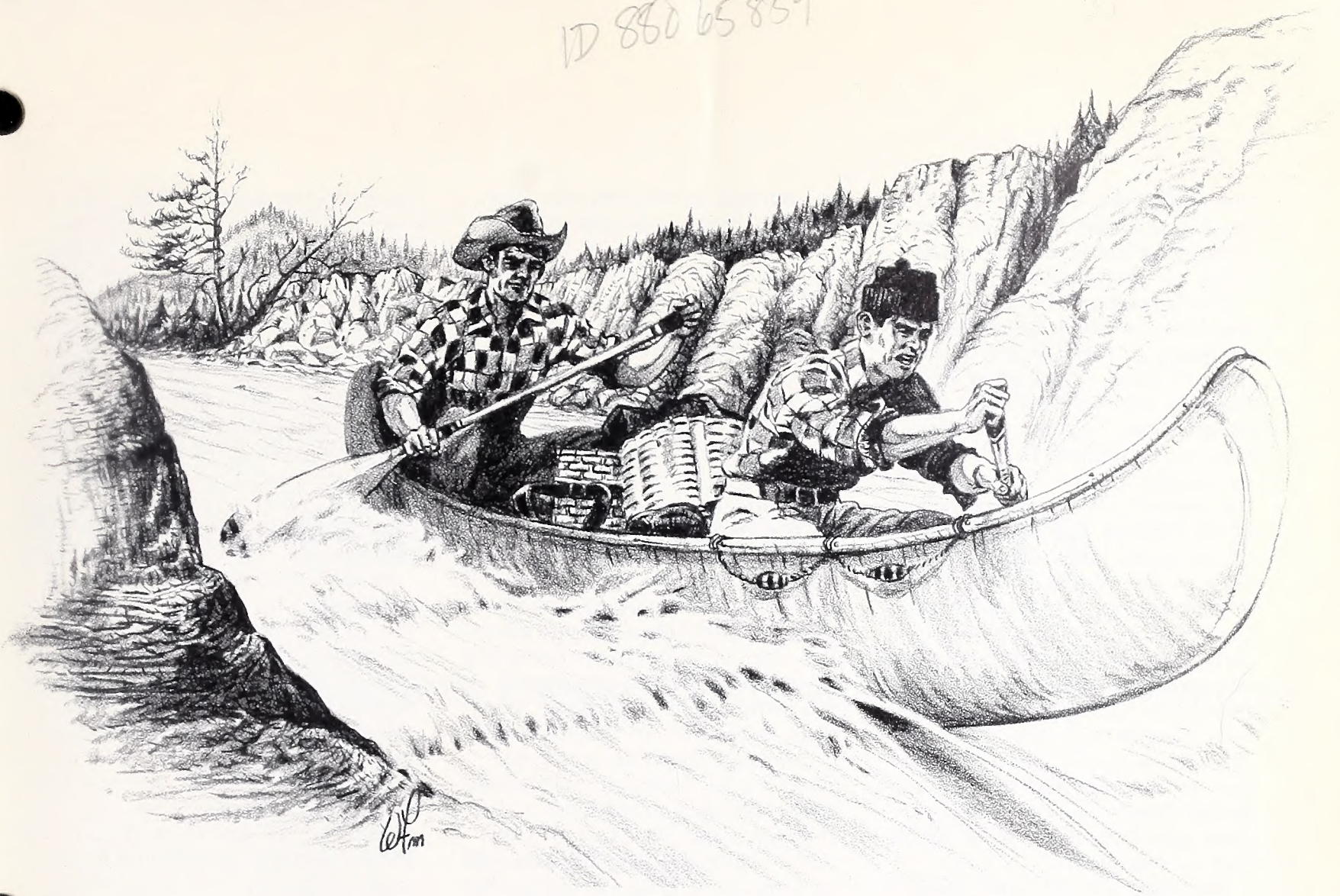
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Our Public Lands

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The Gulkana-Swift and Wild

The Gulkana Vies for Wild River Status

JOETTE STORMS

Public Affairs,
BLM Anchorage District Office

Wild river — in our minds the words are synonymous with adventure, white water, and isolation. Man needs wild places, to go where he thinks no one else has gone before, and to explore the unknown recesses of nature's soul. This need was recognized in 1968 when Congress passed the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. The Act provides for the protection of wild rivers in all their free flowing glory.

One of the Nation's remaining wild rivers is the Gulkana in south central Alaska. One hundred miles from its headwaters in Summit Lake, the Gulkana meets the Copper River. Along its course, the river cuts across canyons 200

feet deep and races through forest land to meet civilization head on at the crossing of the trans-Alaska oil pipeline.

The Gulkana stirs the hearts of men. They love it, respect it, and seek to test its power. The name comes from the Ahnta Indians who live in the river's basin. Acknowledging its strong, swift character they called it Gul ka na.

Those who have challenged the river for sport have asked the Federal Government to designate the river and the land around it from Paxson Lake to Sourdough, 60 miles downstream, as a Wilderness Trail. In the early 1960s a group known as the Tansns Valley Sportsmen's Association recog-

nized that the Gulkana would need protection from the inevitable development that would come to southcentral Alaska.

On September 11, 1970, the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture identified 47 rivers as potential additions to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The Gulkana was included in this list. The Act called for the evaluation of the rivers in the planning reports of all Federal agencies.

Two years later, with the passage of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, the Department of the Interior drew up plans for classifying the remaining National Resource Lands in the state. The Bureau of Outdoor Recreation was charged with the study of Alaskan rivers for potential inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The Gulkana was one of the rivers identified in the study.

Although the Bureau's study is not complete, William Thomas, Chief of the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation's Alaska Field Office, says that a major segment of the river appears to be an excellent candidate for classification as a "wild and scenic river," the most pristine classification under the wild river act.

"If included in the national system," Thomas said, "the Gulkana can remain one of a few outstanding Alaska rivers which can provide the average citizen an opportunity to enjoy a wilderness river without the necessity of expensive air transportation to a remote part of the state. What makes the Gulkana so unique is that it is accessible by road. Yet there are portions which remain isolated because of natural barriers caused by glaciers thousands of years ago."

The Bureau of Land Management, which administers most of the Federal land in Alaska, started

to monitor activity on the Gulkana in 1964. That year only 12 parties were known to have floated or canoed the river. In 1969 BLM published its Canoe Trails brochure calling attention to the Gulkana. After that use of the river grew so that by 1974 a July 4 aerial survey indicated that there were 74 parties in the river that weekend.

Among the Gulkana's attractions are the variety of water conditions it offers and its excellent fishing. Most of the parties who float the Gulkana use rafts but canoeing and kayaking are also popular. Just below Paxon Lake — the start of the trail — there is a series of fairly frequent rapids — the white water that those who float rivers find so challenging.

Stretches of white water are rated on an International Scale of River Difficulty from Class I through Class VI. Most of the white water on the Gulkana falls in Class II or Class III, but further downstream the river constricts through a short boulder-filled canyon with a Class IV rapids that all but the most experienced portage. Beyond the canyon is an 8-mile stretch of exciting white water requiring quick maneuvering through a rocky obstacle course.

For much of the year, grayling fishing is excellent and in the summer months the river's salmon run draws fishermen from all around the world to try their luck at landing a King or Red. The salmon run also attracts an unusually high number of northern bald eagles. Mature eagles return each year to several nests located in trees along the river. It is not uncommon to observe dozens of mature and immature birds as one floats the river.

Increased use of the river has brought controversy over the use of power boats and off-road vehicles in the river area. Many see this kind of use as an intrusion of the river's tranquility, and they question the effect on soils, spawning beds, wildlife, and other natural resources. But what may

have an even greater effect on the river is the construction of the Trans-Alaska oil pipeline in a corridor that parallels the river and crosses it at one point just north of the community of Glennallen. The construction is bringing hundreds of workmen into the area and requires millions of tons of gravel to be taken from the surrounding area. BLM has provided strict supervision and regulation of the pipeline activities to minimize the effect on the river environment.

If the Gulkana, or portions of it, is included in the wild river system, a management plan will be developed that is designed to protect the existing values and resources of the river, but, at the same time be responsive to the public's recreational desires.

Under such a plan, the use of power boats and off-road vehicles can be regulated if it is shown that they are having an adverse effect on the environment or conflicting with other uses of the river.

The land along the river — probably a mile on either side — may be withdrawn and classified as a river corridor. There would be no disposal of land within this corridor and only developments that are consistent with the overall management objective of the river area would be allowed. In short, the classification of a wild and scenic river would allow the Department of the Interior to manage the river to protect those values which are becoming increasingly rare in our modern world.

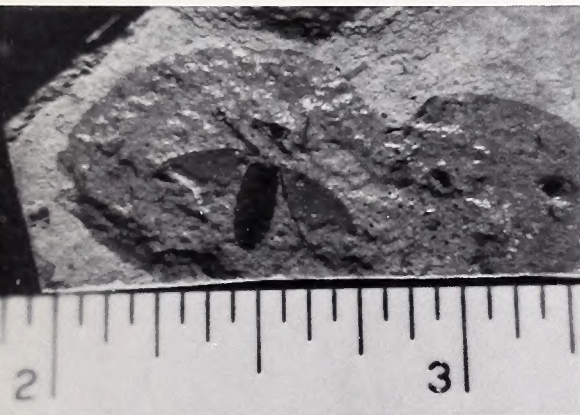
IMAGES

From Forty Million Years

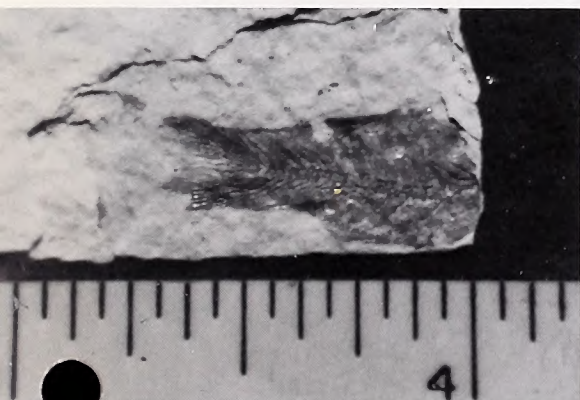
The National Resource Lands - Storehouse of Fossil Treasures

PAUL SUMMERS

Colorado State Office



This well-preserved fossil fly is typical of the specimens found in the Piceance Basin.



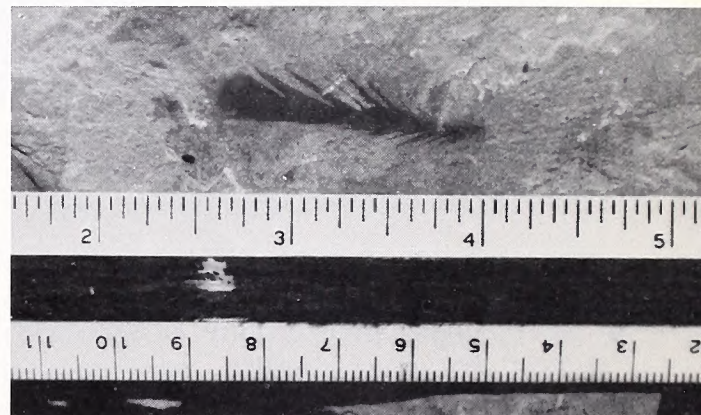
A fish's tail is outlined in stone from the Green River Basin in Wyoming. This species averages from 2 to 2½ inches in length.

In the constantly developing structure of the earth, great lakes were captured about 40 million years ago, amid the upthrust lands in northwestern Colorado and eastern Utah. The character and form of prehistoric plants, insects, birds, mammals and fish have been etched in sandstone that was once the floor of these huge lakes.

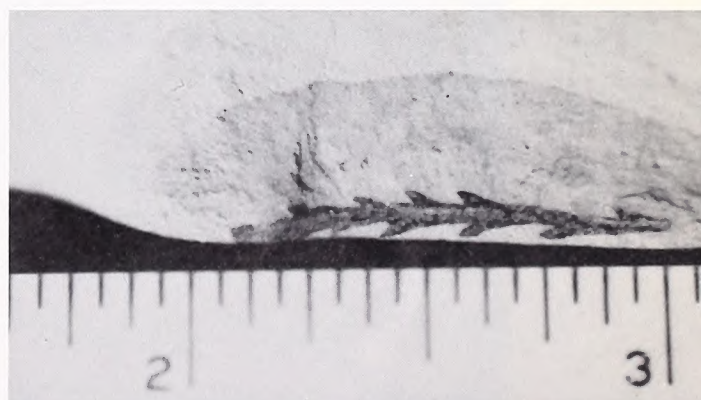
Two of these lakes were in an area where I have had great success in locating interesting fossil specimens. One vast body of water, named Lake Uinta, surely covered an area of no less than 25,000 square miles.

Events of this far-distant Geologic era are recorded in the layers of the massive Green River formation. Layer upon layer of this formation was laid down at the bottom of this vast lake as sediment, eroding from surrounding mountains, slipped quietly to the shallow depths and became the rock strata visible today.

Farther to the north, in southwestern Wyoming, another lake, named Gosiute, had also become trapped by surrounding hills and



A bird feather silhouetted in stone. This kind of fossil is rare for the Basin.



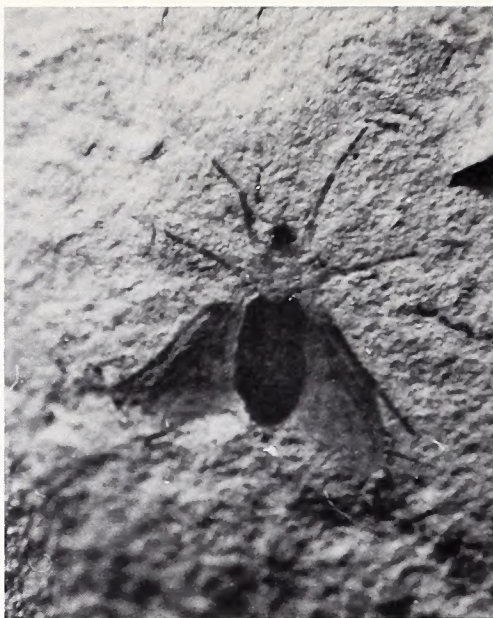
This unidentified plant grew and died long before man appeared on earth.

covered a vast land area. Both lakes left evidence that they were quite shallow, perhaps 50-60 feet, and stable for very long periods of time in the early years of their existence. Later on, geologic relationships suggest depths of several hundred feet.

The climate at the time these lakes dominated the area (Lake Uinta for about 5-8 million years and Lake Gosiute a short-lived 4 million years), was similar to that prevailing today in Louisiana. The humid warmth encouraged algae to flourish and build bedlike reefs that expanded broadly over the smooth floors of both lakes. Fish, clams, other shelled animals and aquatic insect larvae were plentiful in the lakes; turtles, crocodiles, bird and small camels, as well as countless winged insects, frequented the lake shores.

This area is known today as the energy-rich and highly controversial Piceance, Uinta, and Green River Basins. Here, these decaying remnants of an unrecorded past are a part of valuable oil shale deposits.

The earliest account of finding fossil insects in the Piceance Basin region is given by members of the Hayden Survey in an 1890 report. "Fossil insects were first discovered on the lower White River in western Colorado and east-



An almost perfectly preserved fly.

ern Utah by Mr. William Denton during his passage down the river on horseback in 1865. His brief and cursory account of the geologic structure of the region is, I believe, the first and only one until the parties of the Hayden Survey entered the region ten or more years later." (Quoted from Scudder, 1890, p. 37)

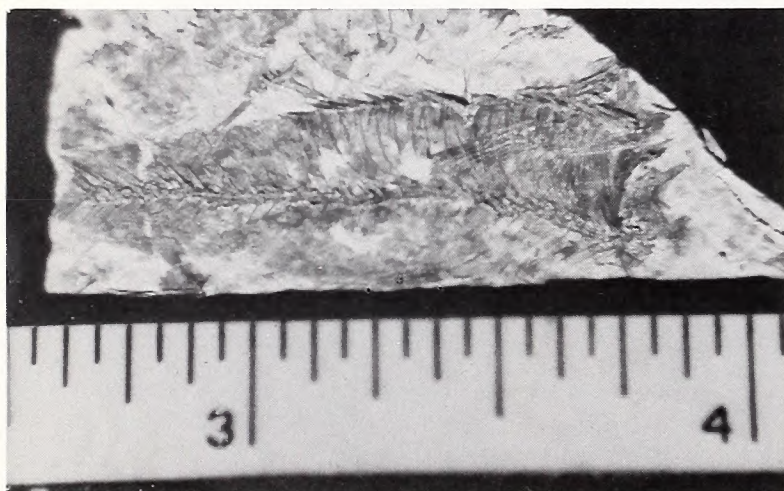
During several years of fieldwork in oil shale country of Colorado, Utah and Wyoming, I had

the opportunity to collect numerous fossils which preserved the animal and plant record of part of the Eocene period (30-40 million years ago).

In the process of fossilization, preservation of the organic remains is a necessity. This depends chiefly, although not entirely, on two factors: (1) quick burial in a protective medium, and (2) some type of hard part, such as a shell or skeleton. Any condition unfavorable to bacteria hinders decay of the organism or animal. Decomposition may be retarded or prevented for example, by burial in soft muds or volcanic ash, by sea water, or for land preservation, even by very dry air.

Other types of fossilization are replacement, petrification, and recrystallization.

Since the protective cover is of utmost importance in the fossilization process, aquatic animals and plants are more likely to become preserved and fossilized than those in a terrestrial habitat. Animals and insects dying in Lake Gosiute sank to the bottom, in an environment lacking oxygen, and settled into the bed of silt already covering the lake floor. With the constantly shifting currents, the remains of animals became quickly covered and the process of fossilization began. Solution and



The head and tail are missing from this fossil fish found in the Green River Basin.



This leaf fell from its tree in some far distant autumn. After blowing into the water, it sank to leave its print in stone.



A small beetle is clearly outlined.

other chemical action under water transformed the tissues of plants and animals to a thick film of carbon. The remains are then carbonized as shown by the fossils in the illustrations.

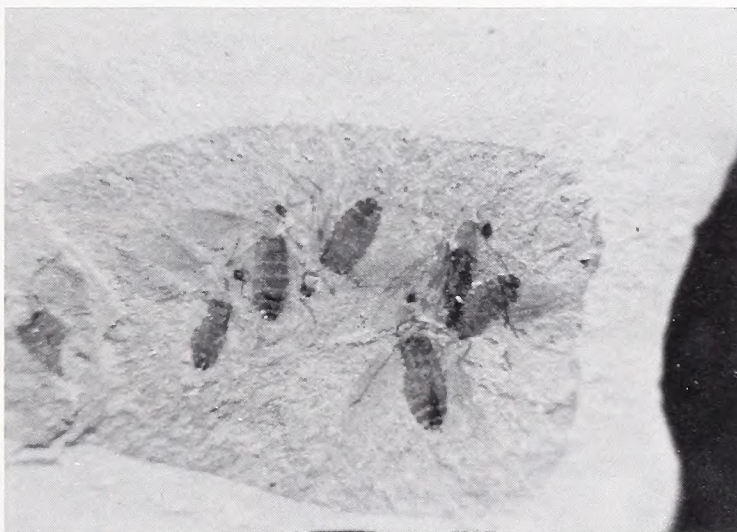
If we look at fossils with imagination, the pages of time seem to ruffle backward, transporting us across the eons. The story they tell — imprints of tracks across an ancient beach, an animal form preserved in the throes of death — signify both an end and a beginning.

Fly larvae were abundant in the

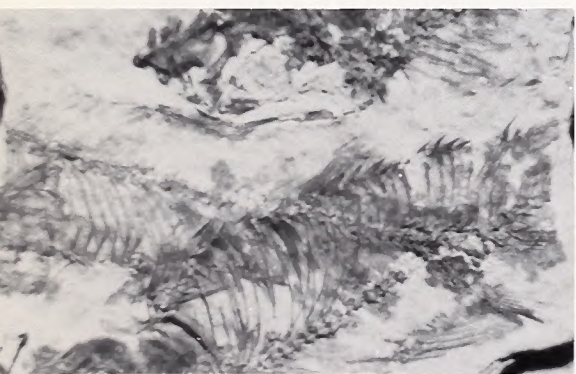
lake; in numerous localities the fossil larvae are so thick that they overlap one another and extend for many square feet. Less common, but still plentiful, are fossils of other insects such as mosquitoes. These range in size from a couple of millimeters to perhaps six millimeters in length.

The Green River formation contains numerous fossil fish. More than 35 species have been identified in various parts of the Green River Basin in Wyoming. By far

ming and NW Colorado, an exciting fossil discovery was made recently in the northern part of the Green River Basin of Wyoming. The flamingo, a tropical wading bird, finds its most common habitat in the shallow waters and marshes of saline lakes. Here, in a locality on the shoreline of ancient Lake Gosiute, a fossil flamingo nesting area was found containing literally thousands of fossilized flamingo bones and egg shells.



It is rare to find a group of flies as are fossilized here in Piceance Basin oil shale.



Overlapping fish from the Green River Basin show in detail the small bones extending from the spine.

the most abundant fish is the species *Knightia*, a small fresh water herring. These fish were about 3-5 inches long. Another common fish in the Eocene Green River beds was *Phareodus*. Its presence reflects the tropical environment of the period. *Phareodus* belonged to a family that is now restricted to tropical regions of the world. The *Phareodus* was a much larger species than *Knightia*, commonly reaching lengths of 24 inches. While my own fieldwork did not yield any fossil fish in the Piceance Creek Basin, some rather good fish fossils were observed in the Washakie and Green River Basins of Wyoming.

As further evidence of the once tropical environment of SW Wyo-

The story of the earth's development and man's place in it, continues to unravel with each new geologic, paleontologic and archeologic find. Some of the secrets we learn concerning the hard facts of survival for all living creatures opens the door to learning about the evolutionary future of mankind and the ecosystem in which we all live.

The Antiquities Act of 1906 prohibits unauthorized persons from collecting vertebrate fossils and also protects sites containing unique invertebrate specimens or those having special scientific value. Invertebrate specimens outside such areas may be collected.



This trailer, located at the intersection on BLM's dunes road and the state highway, serves as the base of operations for BLM's Desert Rangers in the Imperial Sand Dunes.

DUNES and BUGGIES

California's Imperial Sand Dunes Provide Off-Road Vehicles Opportunity For Recreation

JERRY HARRELL

Public Affairs, California State Office

The Imperial Sand Dunes rise 300 feet above the floor of the California Desert, their stark white ridges in bold contrast to the mottled greens and browns to the east and west.

The dunes run southeast-northwest from just below the Mexican border 36 miles into California. Their width varies from three to six miles.

A striking feature of the dune environment is silence most of the time, in spite of two east-west highways cutting across them.

But the stillness gives way on weekends to the roar of dune buggy engines, the whine of motorcycles and the boom-town atmosphere of instant cities of

trailers, campers, motorhomes, buses, vans and tents.

On a winter holiday weekend — Thanksgiving, New Year's, Washington's Birthday — the Imperial Sand Dunes teem with up to 10,000 camping vehicles and 5,000 dune buggies.

Glamis, a wide spot in the road on California Highway 78, lives up to its self-proclaimed title of "Dune Buggy Capital of the World."

Dune buggy clubs play follow-the-leader, their warning flags waving above the sand ridges to announce their presence. Others challenge steep hills like "Competition Hill" or run drag races. Children and adults zip all about

on two-wheeled motorcycles and three-wheeled all-terrain cycles.

Accidents can happen, and frequently do.

The Imperial Sand Dunes are almost solidly National Resource Lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management. Existing heavy use marked the Dunes for priority status when BLM launched its interim critical management program for recreation vehicles on the California Desert.

Under that program, revised and renamed the "California Desert Vehicle Management Program," the dunes south of Highway 78 are open to off-road vehicles. North of the Highway, the dunes are closed to protect unique plant and wildlife communities, but there is a mile-wide vehicle corridor on the west side.

BLM's initial management efforts were hampered by an inability to get around in the dunes. A conventional two-wheel drive government pickup was like a fish out of water in the sandy world of the dunes.

The obvious answer was a dune buggy, so in 1974 BLM contracted for a dune buggy designed for patrol, visitor assistance, and management in the dunes.

Modifications specified by BLM — including rear seats that fold down to accommodate litters for accident victims — boosted the cost from \$5,000 to approximately \$5,500 for the buggy, its trailer and a spare set of wheels.

After shakedown runs and further changes to strengthen the drive train, the buggy went into service in early 1975. In its first year, the buggy hauled more than 50 injured recreationists out of the dunes, provided assistance to uncounted people who were stranded, and gained a strong foothold for management in the chaotic world of the weekend dunes.

"The buggy has made all the difference in the world for BLM's management program in the dunes," said Barry Ashworth, Lead Desert Ranger for the Southeast Desert Resource Area.

A hearty "amen" is added by Dave Krouskop and Dave Bush, two rangers who operate the buggy.

"This buggy is the greatest thing the Bureau has ever had as far as this area is concerned," shouts Krouskop over the roar of the buggy's engine.

"We were intruders when I first came down here a year and a half ago. People saw a government rig and said, 'what did I do wrong now?'"

"Now they come up and talk about the buggy, and this opens up other subjects and gives us an intro to talk about our management program.

"They even wave to us now," he says, returning the wave of a passing buggy operator.

Bush's experience was the same: "People didn't think we had a right to be out here — they



Vehicles line California highway 178 through the Imperial Sand Dunes. In the foreground BLM's dune buggy gets ready to patrol the day's activities and to render assistance to participants as needed.

thought they owned the dunes. We were not accepted.

"They would not stay out of the closed area. We were the bad guys and all we were doing was closing the desert in their eyes.

"Then we came out in the buggy and started working accidents — providing a service that was badly needed and no one else had the capability of providing. They began to accept us, and to recognize that the dunes do belong to all the people and that we manage the dunes.

"They see we are doing something productive and not just closing the desert," Bush adds.

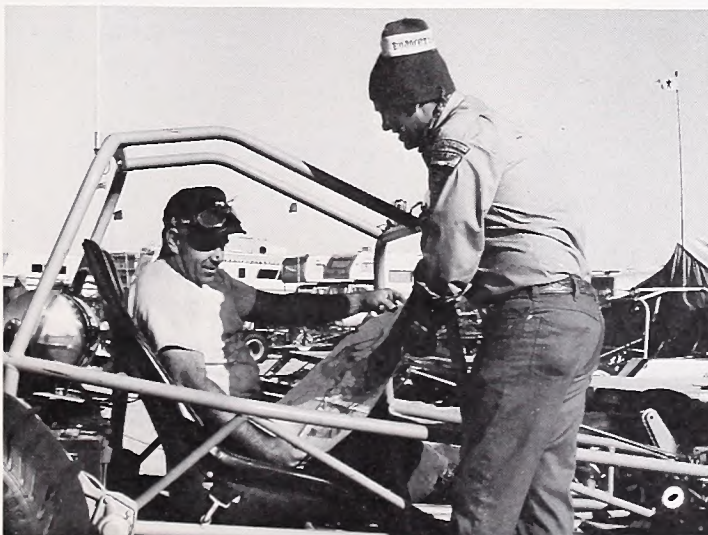
Krouskop points out that the BLM buggy was designed as a management tool, but is also an invaluable public relations tool because of its status as an "ice-breaker" with the recreational community.

"And because it is a public relations tool, it's a more effective management tool," says Lead Ranger Ashworth.

BLM's buggy has paid for itself in the eyes of the rangers. But the vehicle is not used solely for recreation management.

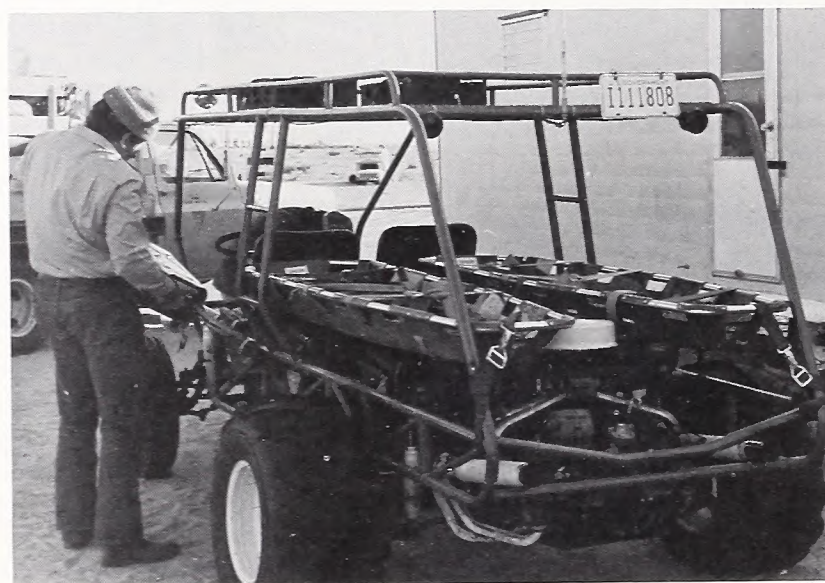
It has been used in the East Mesa and other Southeast Desert areas for archaeological surveys and such resource inventories as range, watershed and wildlife.

The buggy has two sets of rear tires: big paddle-track tires for the dunes and more conventional high-flotation truck tires for use elsewhere.

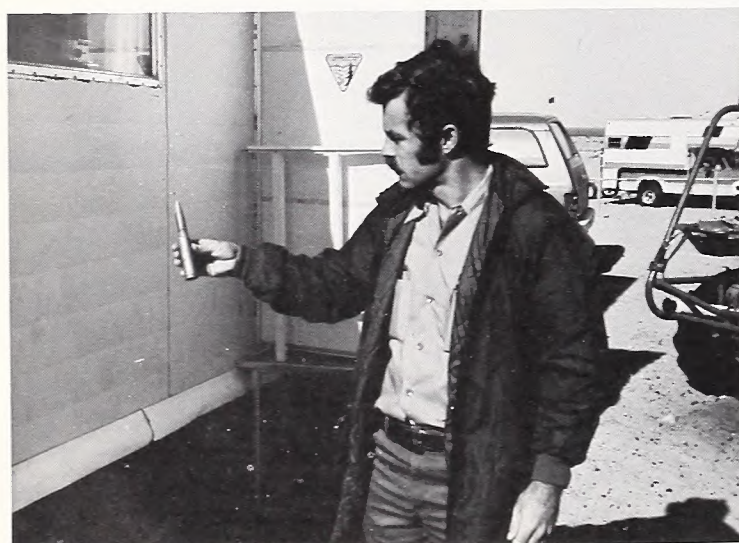


Desert Ranger Dave Bush discusses BLM's program for the California desert with a buggy operator. The sand dunes make up one of the most heavily used parts of the California Desert.

Ranger Dave Krouskop stands on the big rear tires of the BLM dune buggy to contact the ranger station by radio.



The back seats fold down to provide space for litters used to transport injured. Providing emergency assistance to injured is one reason for having BLM's buggy.



Unexploded shells, from the days when the dunes were used for artillery practice, is one of the hazards of driving in the sand dunes. BLM rangers are trained to deal with such hazards.

The buggy is powered by an air-cooled, 140-horsepower Chevrolet Corvair engine. It is economical to operate, so its 25-gallon tank gives it excellent range.

The two litters, backboard and first aid kits can be stowed atop the buggy's steel frame or on the folded-down rear seats.

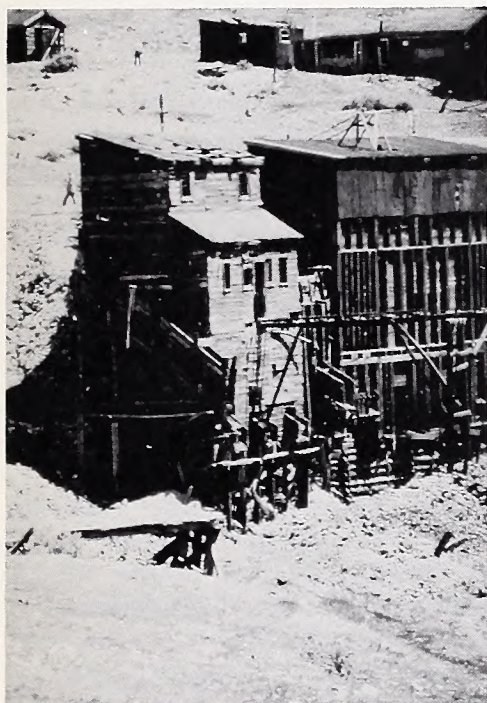
Five of the seven Desert Rangers in the Southeast Desert Resource Area have undergone intensive emergency medical technician (EMT) training. It came in handy in 13 rescues during the 1975 Thanksgiving Weekend. All the rangers have been familiarized with explosive ordnance by a U.S. Army Explosive Ordnance Detachment so they will recognize the various types of artillery shells left behind by years of gunnery practice in and near the dunes.

Rangers on patrol are equipped with portable two-way radios connecting them with the BLM's Cahuilla Ranger Station. The station is a 55-foot trailer set up at the intersection of BLM's Imperial Sand Dunes Road and Highway 78. The station is in radio contact with Southeast Desert Resource Area headquarters in El Centro, the Riverside District Office and the Imperial County Sheriff's Office.

Capability is still limited. BLM covers about 60 percent of the dunes, but has virtually no capability in the southern 40 percent near Interstate 8 and Buttercup Valley.

The first BLM dune buggy is still having some mechanical "bugs" ironed out. But while it is partly an experimental prototype, it is also a valuable management tool that has won its spurs in heavy use.

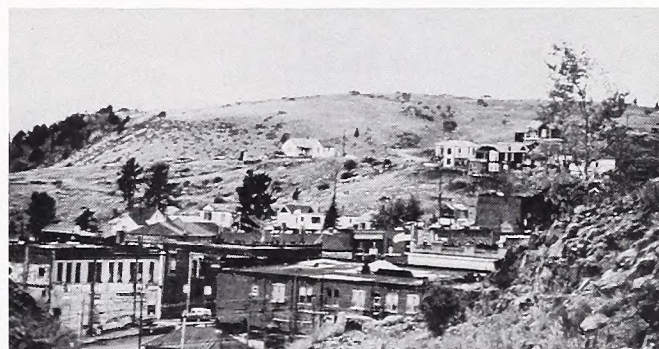
A Historic Mining District - A Rembered Past



Ode to Cripple Creek

Here once they stood, in summer's sun,

Bright products of the Adam-man.

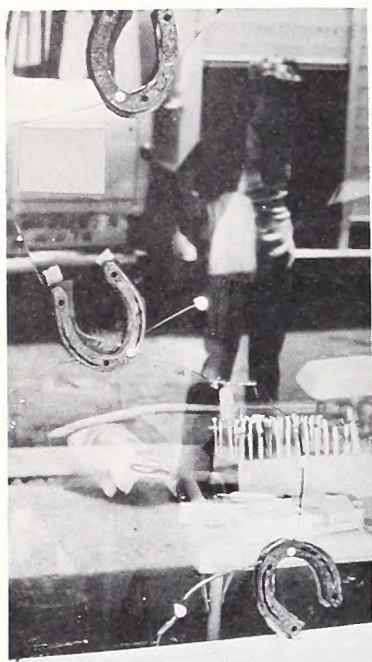


Yet, silently their streets now run,

Where here, once history's page began.



Among their relics, this House of God,



And broken windows, plainly shod.



Comes stealthily now, dark winter's cloud,



With icy fingers to enshroud.

While nature's disciplines march proudly on,



Not bowing to a season gone.

In 1963, Cripple Creek District was designated as a Historical Site by the U.S. Department of the Interior. Here, against a background of mountainous extremities, the works of man have flourished and waned with the vagaries of Nature's changing moods.

The towering peaks of Colorado's high country have teased and taunted mankind since first they were viewed by the early conquistadores. Deep within its bowels lie veins of precious minerals, strata of energy-producing shales, and a raucous history tempered by the tranquility of the land.

In early prospecting times, staked claims and mine diggings were often named as focal points in local geography before towns developed. These names came more through evolution than design. Victor, Cripple Creek, Goldfield and Independence were in an area which included many other towns whose names are now known only to the historian but once they were a vital part of the Cripple Creek Mining District.



This placer mining operation was typical of the activity throughout the Cripple Creek Mining District. This particular operation was on Mineral Hill within the city limits of Cripple Creek. Several rich streaks of ore were found here, but the Hill never became a large producer.

When the ore veins were exhausted, the towns were deserted and their buildings stood as ghostly reminders of an era past. The land that had once resounded with the ring of steel on steel and the rumble of the ore wagons heard only the call of the lark and the weeping of the wind.

Time moulders the works of man. Antiquity forgives desecration and lends dignity and beauty to all. The ghost towns and the land, much of it public land, that surrounds them have now been rediscovered.

Because of its very isolation, the Cripple Creek District, born of random prospecting by gold-hungry men and once the richest gold camp in the world, is now in demand as a haven — a place to “get away from it all.”

Unlike the nuggets panned during the California Gold Rush, the minerals found at Cripple Creek had to be tracked through tortuous veins in narrow lava fissures created by volcanic eruption during the Tertiary period. Subsequent eruptions deposited tellurides of gold, silver and copper along with quartz, fluor spar and pyrite. The narrow volcanic fissures, not completely filled, and not massive veins, make the Cripple Creek ore bodies distinguishable, indeed unique, from most other mining districts throughout the west.

In the spring of 1884 an itinerant prospector with the unlikely name of “Chicken Bill” Lovell was reported to be finding nuggets of gold by the fistful. News traveled fast! What followed was a gold rush. It was soon discovered that “Chicken Bill,” in keeping with a long tarnished reputation, had been taking his nuggets from a salted mine. Within four days the

area was abandoned. “Chicken Bill’s” hoax would mar the credibility of the more persistent prospectors, and especially that of a locally labeled blow-hard named Bob Womack who claimed to be finding gold in the area.

Bob, the son of Sam Womack who had homesteaded a piece of land on the site of future Cripple Creek, was a cowboy by trade. While riding his family’s range he was in the habit of scrutinizing every piece of likely looking rock in the hope of finding gold.

On a bright morning in May in the year 1878, Bob spotted an unusual piece of gray rock, about nine inches long and three inches wide. It was light as wood, and it suggested the presence of gold. The “float” rock had eroded and broken free of an outcrop higher up on the slope. Flood waters had probably carried it downhill to the place Bob named “Poverty Gulch.” “Poverty” was a name commonly applied to mines in the west.

The nature of tellurides make identification of gold content difficult because of their varying textures and wide range of colors. As Womack followed the trail of float rock, success seemed elusive; nevertheless, he laboriously traced it to what he considered the source. There in Poverty Gulch he staked out a mining claim and called it “The Chance.”

Riches continued to elude him. For six years he worked his claim with such meager success that he never bothered to record it. Finally, two miners saw his samples and decided to take a “gander” at Bob’s diggings. What they saw interested them enough to prospect the gulch.

For Bob Womack, success struck like the lightning bolt and was as

quickly gone. One day while working his mine, he came up on ore that assayed at \$200 per ton. Wild with elation, he hurried to Colorado Springs to celebrate and tell the good news.

In Colorado Springs liquor flowed free and Bob was no teetotaler. Obeying a flash of drunken inspiration, he sold his mine, now called “The El Paso” for \$500 cash!

From Bob Womack’s discovery emerged one of the richest and perhaps most geologically complex, mining districts in the nation.

Towns sprung up like mushrooms after a spring shower. Then just before the turn of the Century two fires in four days roared through Cripple Creek and Victor when the boys down in the gaming houses got careless and allowed their ebullience to exceed their wisdom. The flames left total destruction.

But only the buildings were destroyed; the frontier spirit roared on and new buildings arose from the ashes. The towns were bigger, better and rougher than ever.

When the new century began, the District had produced a half billion dollars worth of gold. Claims were staked on top of claims, creating the most complicated patchwork of mining claims in history. The District also suffered violent labor disputes resulting in death and mayhem to many.

Womack lived to see it all, but he was never able to cash in on the treasure he had uncovered. Down in Poverty Gulch he had named, he died a pauper. His only claim to fame was his discovery of the gold that led to the creation of the District.

At the turn of the century Cripple Creek boasted a population of 25 thousand and Victor had 12 thousand. A total of 60 thousand lived in the entire District. Today only a remnant remain. Six hundred fifty live in Cripple Creek and only 400 remain in Victor. There is still some mining, but hardship, hatred, greed and passion have followed the crowd across the mountain. The stranger still comes, but he looks for peace and relaxation instead of gold.

The Man in the Hot Seat

A Fire Dispatcher has Grave Responsibility, Unique Authority

TOM EVANS

Public Affairs, California State Office

The man in the hot seat at Fifth and Cedar Streets in Susanville, California can put into motion — in a matter of minutes — a 230-man assault force, 29 heavy vehicles and four attack aircraft. And if that doesn't do the job, he can call in reinforcements from throughout the West.

"The man" is Vernon Kasper, Chief Dispatcher at the Susanville Interagency Dispatch Center

(SIDC). He is an employee of the Forest Service, Department of Agriculture.

Or "the man" might be William B. Ott, Forest Service; or Rol Parkhurst, or John Keith, both employees of the Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior.

These dispatchers have unique authority. During the fire season, as they take turns at the hot seat,

each is authorized to make fire-fighting decisions on behalf of the Forest Supervisor for Lassen National Forest; the Superintendent of Lassen Volcanic National Park; and BLM's Susanville District Manager.

This overlap of authority in fire management has been tested three years at the Susanville Interagency Dispatch Center, and the managers of the three jurisdic-



A fire season employee makes a fast hook-up of a cargo net used to carry equipment and supplies to a fire. Helicopters get men and materials to fires, even in remote areas, in minutes.



Vernon Kasper, Chief Dispatcher for the Susanville Interagency Dispatch Center, is the man in the hot seat today. With the Center's communications console, he can bring a formidable force to bear on a fire within minutes. During the fire season, the hot seat is manned 24 hours a day.

tions are convinced the combined approach is the best way to handle fire suppression in the 5.3 million acres they share.

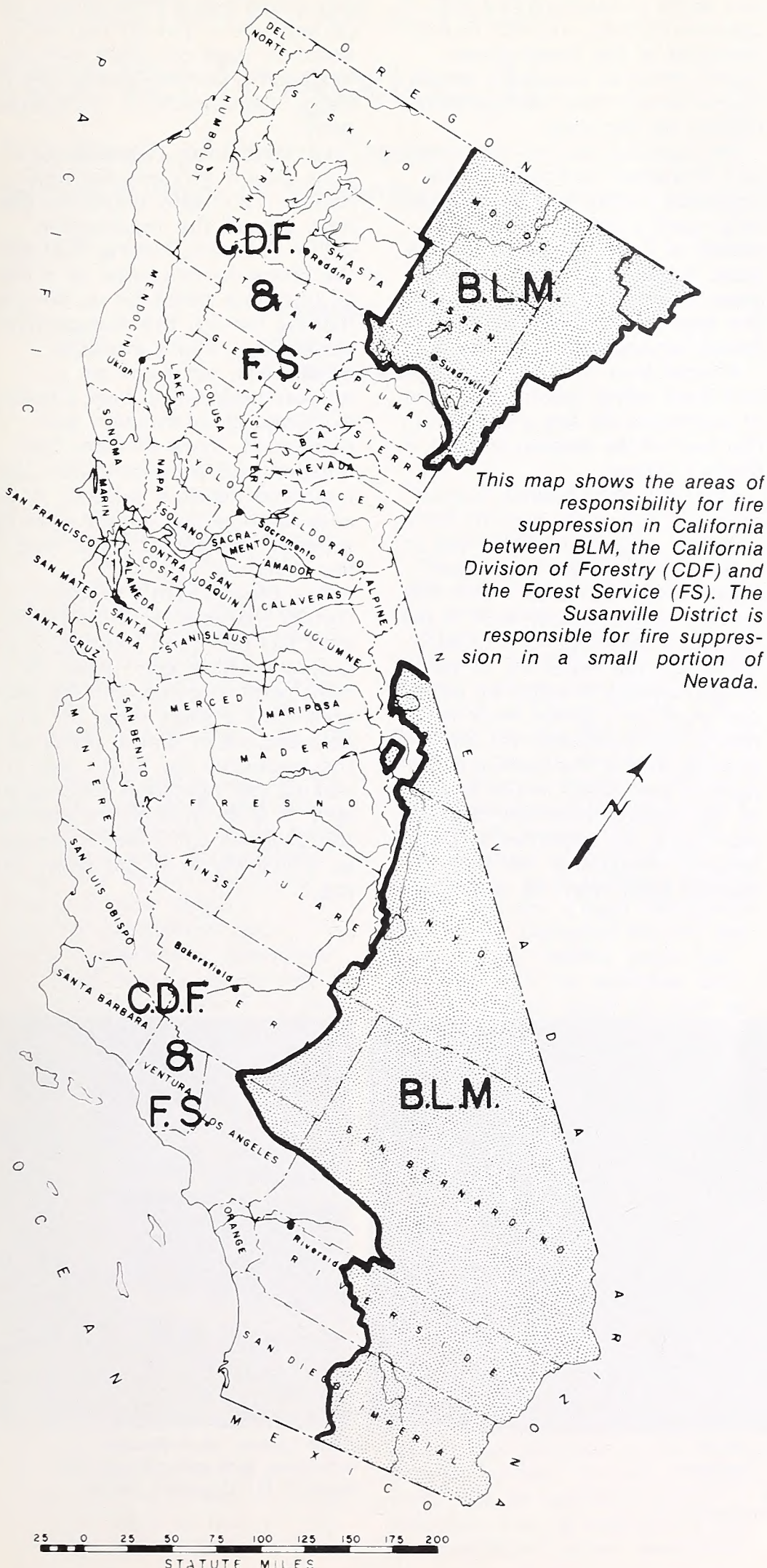
The Center operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week during the fire season — from May to October. Its area of coverage includes 4 million acres of BLM National Resource Lands in north-eastern California and north-western Nevada; 1.2 million acres of National Forest lands and 107,000 acres of National Park Service lands. Private land within the area boundaries also are protected.

The Dispatch Center has at its immediate command 15 Forest Service ground tankers, each with a five-man crew. The Forest Service also has the "Lassen Hot Shots," a 20-man crew that takes on one of the hardest of physical labors — building fire line with hand tools. Ninety engineering employees and other project crews are available for back-up.

Also in the initial assault line-up are eight BLM tankers with five-man crews and four National Park Service pumpers with five-man crews. The front line "air force" includes an aerial tanker, three helicopters and a reconnaissance aircraft. Helitack units are used mostly to snuff fires while they're small but the units also can be put into larger operations.

Four Lassen College student crews totaling 80 men are part of the first line. They take the same 32-hour training as the 50 seasonal fire fighters BLM hires each summer. Training includes learning to drive fire trucks, fire behavior, arson investigation, map reading, use of helicopter fire fighting equipment, chain saw, weather and hand tools. Instructors are supplied by the three agencies, plus California Division of Forestry and the Boise Inter-agency Fire Center.

The Susanville Center has a mutual aid agreement with the California Division of Forestry. Other assistance is available from the Forest Service Service Center at Redding, the Basic Interagency Fire Control and from the participating agencies elsewhere in California.



Average number of acres burned in the area over the last 10 years is 3,700 acres, but there hardly ever is a "typical" year. In 1973 one man-caused fire raged nine days over 19,000 acres. In 1974 there were 136 fires — 58 man-caused and 78 lightning-caused. More than 12,000 acres were burned.

Principal officer at the Center is Fred Fuchs, BLM District Fire

Management Officer. Bob Wragg, also BLM, is Assistant Fire Management Officer. Thomas Beard, stationed at the Forest Supervisor's office in Susanville, is Forest Service Fire Management Officer for the area.

Fire back-up is a two-way street and firefighters assigned to the Susanville Center may be called to help quell a big outbreak elsewhere in California or in another State. Kasper said when that happens, attempts are made to split the load evenly between the Forest Service and BLM.

A crew from one agency may find itself using heavy equipment of another at the fire scene, but in the heat of the mission at hand, it doesn't matter.

How has the Dispatch Center worked? This is the way the three principal officials involved see it:

Jim Berlin, Forest Supervisor, Lassen National Forest — "It has worked tremendously well. It has increased each agency's capability to put out wildfires. It no longer matters whether we send a red truck or a green truck to a fire. It has increased our effectiveness and it has made our firefighters and BLM's more versatile in the kinds of fires they can handle. There are important spin-offs beyond firefighting. We have learned other ways to cooperate,

including joint radio maintenance and fire warehousing. And perhaps it's a spin-off that we're about to have our third joint annual Forest Service-Bureau of Land Management Christmas party."

W. Stephenson, Superintendent, Lassen Volcanic National Park — "It's really helped us. We have a small fire organization within the park. Having BLM and the Forest Service assist us is like an insurance policy for us. We get training for our fire management people that wasn't available before. The net gains are a quicker response to fires, a better exchange of information and equipment, more efficient coordination and communication and improved logistical support. It all adds up to getting the job done in a better way and at lower cost. 'We definitely like it.'"

Rex Cleary, BLM's Susanville District Manager — "The Center truly has the finest joint agency program I have ever observed. I have been involved with the program only a short time. My predecessor, Dean Bibbes, provided the leadership for BLM's part in making the operation function so well. It is my intention to see that the program continues to operate as effectively as it has been doing."



Trainees learn to operate a pumper. The pumper can throw 350 gallons of water per minute under 250 pounds of pressure. It can pump water from a pond or river a mile away. Its own 500 gallon tank will last a little more than a minute, but a nurse tanker holding 6,000 gallons of water can be used with the pumper.



Temporary fire-fighters, mostly college students, pose during a classroom break at Lassen College in Susanville, where they receive training in fire suppression. Training is also an interagency effort.



Elica Larimer is a season employee who provides clerical support for Dispatch Center.

Landmarks of a Past Not Yet Forgotten II

*The Mouth of Cherry Creek,
Denver's Point of Beginning*

EVALINE OLSEN

Colorado State Office

It is here that the waters of Cherry Creek flow into South Platte River. As streams go, neither is especially impressive, but it was at the mouth of Cherry Creek that the gold was discovered in 1858 that set off the Colorado Gold Rush and led to the founding of the City of Denver.

By 1858 the bloom was off the California Gold Rush, and miners who had missed out on the good claims there were backtracking through the Rocky Mountains looking for new diggin's.

Hopeful prospectors had already established a settlement they called Auraria on the left bank of Cherry Creek. From that spot they fanned out through the mountains to prospect every likely looking stream. Among those who came to Auraria in 1858 was William Green Russell. He got there in February with his brothers. It was July before he found color while panning in Cherry Creek.

By late summer the word reached Leavenworth, Kansas to set off another gold rush.

Among those who passed through Leavenworth on their way to the Colorado gold fields was General William Larimer. Like many who traveled to the gold fields, Larimer did not intend to make his fortune panning gold. In Leavenworth, he spread the word that he intended to found a city and sought those willing to back

his promotion.

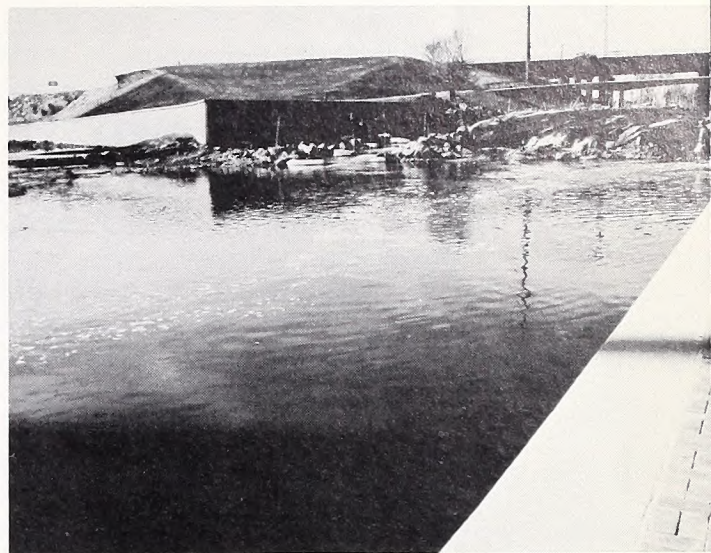
He organized the Denver City Town Company in November of that same year.

When Larimer arrived in Colorado, he found the town of Auraria already established on the left bank of Cherry Creek. Undaunted, Larimer laid out his town on the opposite shore. As the gold seekers arrived, an intense rivalry developed between the citizens of Denver and Auraria.

As a matter of fact citizens of both towns were squatters on the public domain, a legal inelegance that at first bothered no one, but it meant that neither town had any legal right to existence and that no citizen could get title to the land he occupied with a business establishment or dwelling.

But the city continued to grow and ignoring its precarious legal position, it incorporated as the City of Denver in 1861. Six years later Congress legalized its trespass on the public domain and granted Denver and Auraria the land on which they stood. New with permanence assured and their legal problems solved, the two communities decided to resolve their differences and co-exist as neighbors.

As Denver grew the area around the juncture of the two streams became its heart. But the Platte was an unpredictable neighbor. For the most part it was an unobtrusive stream, but rain in



Cherry Creek flows into the South Platte from the upper left.

the mountains could transform it into a monster that devoured all in its path.

Eventually time and neglect brought the blight of decay to the area. Today events have come full circle as urban renewal and efforts to tame the Platte have transformed the slum into a place where local citizens and visitors alike can escape for a while from the routines of 1976.

Now on a warm summer's afternoon one can stop to listen to a concert coming from a grassy amphitheater or perhaps listen in on an out-door class meeting on a river-level plaza on the west bank of the Platte. There are also trails for biking and hiking, including one that leads to Chatfield dam — a flood control structure built to help tame the South Platte.

Local business men have been enthusiastic about the new development project, appropriately called the "Greening of the Platte." And although the project has been hampered by a lack of funds it has continued to move stubbornly forward.

The citizens of Denver are now returning to the point of their town's beginning. It is the start of something new, yet it is also something that has always been a part of Denver — the river environment.

The Second Winning of the Northwest I

From Yorktown to the Defeat of General Harmer's Army

PAUL HERNDON

Office of Public Affairs

When the British marched out of Yorktown in 1781, there was no Indian alive who remembered a time when Europeans had not traveled the dark green forest trails between the Great Lakes and the Ohio River. In the past the Indian had been able to reach an accommodation with the white man. He sold furs to the French and scalps to the "Hair-buyer," and had profited from all, but now the Americans poured through the mountain passes like water that has breached the dam.

There was no accommodation with the Americans. They did not come to trade, but to satisfy their insatiable appetite for land. As far as the Indian was concerned, he could see little choice but to fight for his homeland.

Many tribes were involved in the struggle that followed. Among them were: the Miamis, the Shawnees, the Mingos, the Patawatomis, and the more militant Delawares and Wyandottes. From Canada came the Ottawas and the Chepewas to fight with their brothers against the Americans. From the Iroquois Nation in western New York, Joseph Brant came to serve his people as an advisor, negotiator and diplomat.

The roots of the controversy dated back to the French and Indian War. After defeating the French, the British had signed a treaty with the Northwest tribes

known as the Treaty of Stanwix. In this Treaty the Indians had surrendered all of their lands east of the Appalachian Mountains for settlement by the colonists. In turn the British promised that all land north and west of the Ohio River would be Indian forever.

In appreciation of the British promise, most of the tribes fought on the British side throughout the Revolution. At the instigation of their English allies the Indians had relentlessly raided settlements in western Pennsylvania and New York throughout the war. In the course of those raids, many atrocities were committed against the settlers and their families.

There were also atrocities committed against the Indians, but the settler who came home to find his wife and children mutilated was in no frame of mind to weigh the justice of the matter. War atrocities against the settlers fanned hatreds to be remembered long after the war was over.

Hatred bred hatred, and each new atrocity brought retaliation that was justified in the eyes of whoever struck the last blow. Out of this situation, there arose a generation of white men who had nothing but unqualified admiration for the white man who killed an Indian, no matter how brutal or treacherous the slaying might be.

This is perfectly illustrated in the case of Lewis Wetzel. The Wetzel family, of Swiss descent, moved to the frontier in the vicinity of present-day Wheeling, West Virginia shortly before the Revolutionary War started. By the time Lewis was 14 his father and a brother were killed and two brothers were captured in the course of Indian raids against the frontier. Lewis grew up with a psychotic hatred of all Indians.

He became so obsessed with his hatred that he never married, claimed land, nor took gainful employment so that he could devote all his time to the slaughter of his enemies.

Alone or with one or two reckless companions, he would roam through the forest wilderness hunting Indians like other men hunted game. Some of his companions lost their lives in this dangerous pastime, but Lewis was so skilled at woodcraft that he survived every foray.

The critical time in any encounter between a lone white man and an Indian party was the 20-30 seconds it took the white man to reload a long rifle. Indian warriors soon learned that the white man was vulnerable at such a time and would try to draw his fire. Then, while he was reloading, they would rush him for the kill. Wetzel not only learned to reload uncommonly fast, but to

do it while on a dead run.

He would fire, run and reload, then turn and shoot his closest pursuer with barely a break in his stride. The Indians were completely confounded by the gun that never seemed to need reloading. Historians have credited Wetzel with as many as 100 men killed during his career.

As the years passed, Wetzel became exceedingly vain of his reputation, and this probably led him to seek bizarre opportunities to kill Indians under the most public circumstances. In 1789 he ambushed an Indian sent to Fort Harmer as a delegate to discuss a peace treaty between the whites and the settlers.

The killing aborted the treaty and General Harmer ordered Wetzel arrested for his treacherous attack. Wetzel was not difficult to capture, but he proved a most difficult prisoner to bring to trial since the frontiersmen threatened to mob the soldiers unless their idol was set free. He was never brought to trial, and lived to be an old man. Ironically he was killed by a white man who thought he had shown favor to an Indian.

Wetzel had many counterparts among the Indians. One was a Chickamauga Warrior named Doublehead who waged relentless war against the whites. On one occasion, Doublehead was with a war party that attacked a cabin where 13 members of the Covett family were forced up. The leader of the party, a chief who spoke English, promised that the family would come to no harm if they surrendered. Completely outnumbered, the family accepted the promise and threw open the door to surrender. On entering the house, Doublehead fell on the unarmed family and slaughtered them all before his companions could restrain him.

The Revolutionary War was formally ended when the Americans and the British signed the Treaty of Paris in 1783. In this Treaty, England recognized George Rogers Clark's conquest and ceded the Northwest Territory to the United States. Despite their services to the English cause, the Indians of this region were

not made a party to the Treaty, nor were Indian rights mentioned in the text of the Treaty. The more sophisticated Indian leaders, like Joseph Brant, deeply resented this slight.

Although the British had recognized American sovereignty over the Northwest, they continued to occupy forts at Detroit, Niagara, Mackinac and other strongholds to the west. British Commanders in Canada rationalized their continued occupation on the grounds that withdrawal from these points would trigger a general Indian uprising throughout the area. They were supported by the Government in London on the grounds that the United States still owed certain obligations to loyalists who had been driven from the country during the course of the war.

But there were also more devious reasons. British Commanders in Canada wanted an Indian Confederation to serve as a buffer between the American settlements and the Great Lakes. The merchants in Montreal and Quebec encouraged the occupation so that they could continue to enjoy a monopoly over the lucrative fur trade in the region. It also seems certain that many of the British Commanders stationed in Canada continued to harbor illusions that the Colonies were not really lost and that once the Americans learned that they could not govern the hostile tribes, the region would once more fall to British control.

To further this objective, the British supported the Indian claim for a boundary along the lines promised in the Treaty of Stanwix and they supplied arms and ammunition to the Indians to help them repel white settlers in the area.

To regain the confidence of those Indians like Joseph Brant who resented the fact that the British had not defined Indian rights in the Treaty of Paris, they called a council of tribal leaders in 1783. At the conference the British Commanders assured the Chiefs that cession of the Territory to the Americans in no way diminished Indian title to the land. In effect the British, without

consultation with the United States Government, assured the Indians that the Treaty of Stanwix would remain in force.

The Americans were not long in making their position on this matter known. On October 15 of that same year, Congress repudiated the Treaty of Stanwix and called on the tribes to withdraw from all land east of the Miami River.

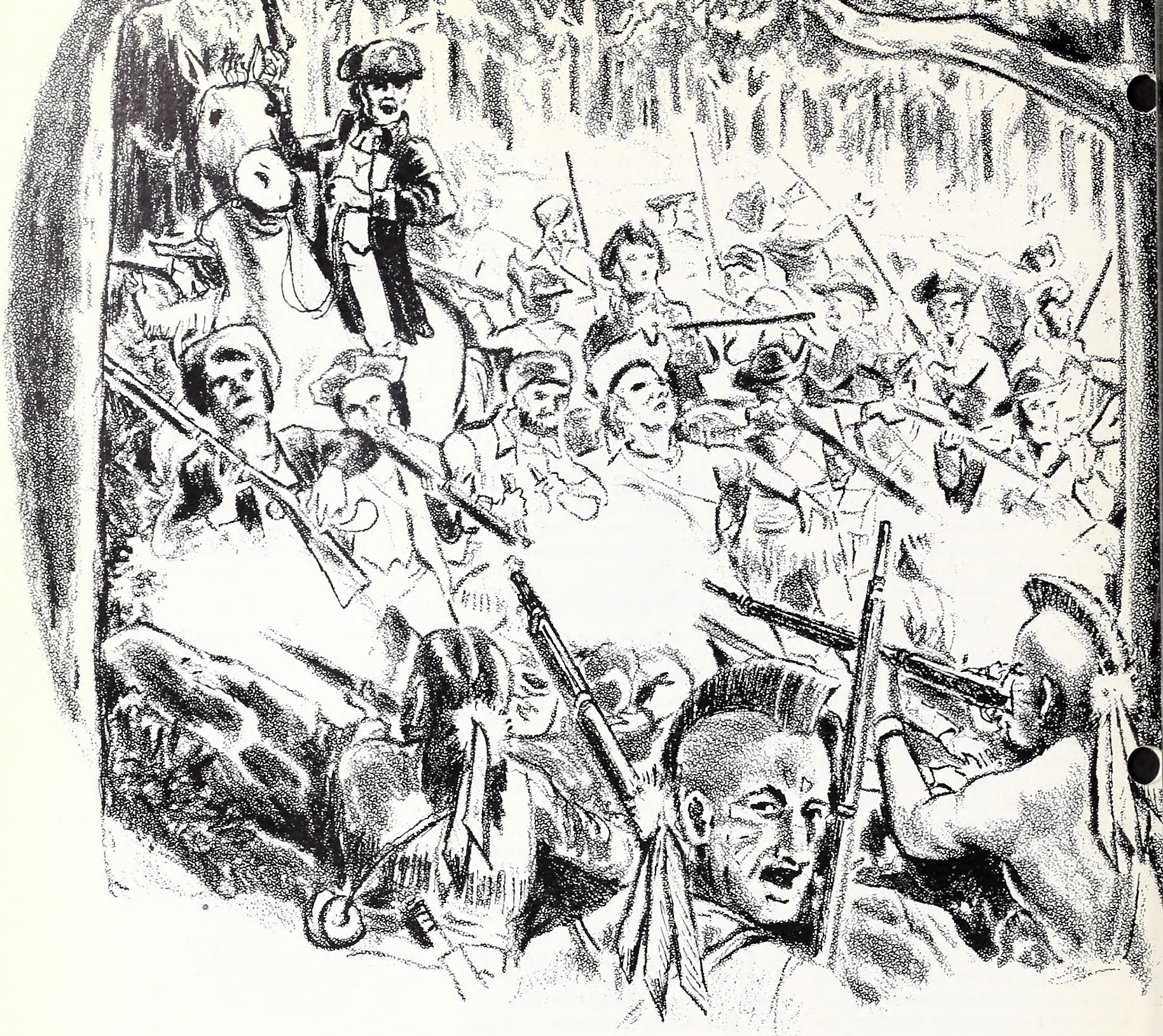
But it was a year later, October 22, 1784, that a delegation representing the United States government met with the Indians at Fort Stanwix to explain the American position. The delegation started by reminding the Indians that they were a conquered people. Then they assured them that, while the British had ceded the land to the United States, the United States would allow the Indians to keep a part of the land for themselves. Today, the Americans appear as incredibly naive. In no way did the Indian look upon himself as a conquered man, and he had little understanding of the workings of international diplomacy. The Indians left the conference confused, bewildered and angry.

On January 2, 1785 the same delegation met with the tribes at Fort MacIntosh and persuaded representatives of pacifist factions within the tribes to sign a treaty setting the Miami River as the eastern boundary of the Indian lands.

When the more militant Indians learned of the Treaty of Fort MacIntosh, they were enraged. In retaliation, they increased their raids against the white settlements.

With few exceptions, the settlers in the Ohio country at this time were squatters who had no legal claim to the land they occupied. The United States Government had commissioned General Joseph Harmer to lead a small detachment of troops to Ohio to evict the squatters from the land. Harmer's band was a rag-tag army that was too weak to defend its own supply line. The Indians watched the army, noted its sorry performance, and grew confident in their ability to hold their land against the Americans.

Among those who did not share



the surge of Indian confidence was Joseph Brant. Brant was in every way an exceptional man. He was better educated than most Americans and had traveled extensively in Europe and among the Colonies. During the War he had been a General in the British Army. In addition to thinking of himself as an Indian, he also considered himself an Englishman. England's loss of its colonies had been a very personal blow to Joseph Brant.

Better than any Indian alive, he understood the European way of waging war, and knew from personal observation how the Indians were outnumbered by the Americans. He well knew that the Indian would lose any prolonged war unless all the tribes were

united and unless they had the support of the British Army in the field. At the same time, he had almost no faith in the will of the English to become involved in a war with the United States in the interest of the Northwest tribes.

Brant also understood the economic forces that favored the Americans. He knew that 10,000 Americans could live off the land it would take to support 100 Indian families. For this reason alone, he was convinced that the Indian would have to give way to the Americans unless the Indian learned the European system of farming and adopted it to his own use. In opposing the Americans, Brant's sole purpose was to buy time to allow the Indian to adjust to a new way of life.

He was willing to fight if necessary to gain that time, but if fighting would not gain his ends, he was just as determined to buy time by making concessions that would pacify the whites. Had the American Government been foresighted enough to deal with Joseph Brant, much bloodshed would have been avoided.

But the American Government was under great pressure to clear Indian title to Ohio lands and to open them to orderly and legal settlement. War veterans were demanding that Congress allow them to take the land they had been promised in the Ohio country, and the squatters were threatening to wreck any hope of systematic settlement.

In 1786 a group of veterans led



by Rufus Putman met in the Bunch of Grapes Tavern in Boston and formed a company for the purpose of investing in Ohio land. The investors adopted the name, "the Ohio Company," and they sent Manasseh Cutler to petition Congress as their agent. Cutler asked Congress for permission for the Ohio Company to purchase a large tract of land just north of the Ohio River. The money offered by the Ohio Company was needed by the Government, and few Americans were in a mood to restrict national growth and development to humor the whim of the Indian tribes.

But the Indians were afire with their determination to hold onto their land. Every tribe sent delegates to a conference held at

Hurontown to voice their will to drive the Americans back across the Ohio. On December 18, 1786 they set forth their demands in a letter addressed to the American Congress. According to the letter, the Americans must order their surveyors out of the Territory and move all settlers back across the mountains.

But the modifying hand of Joseph Brant is seen in the wording of the letter. Instead of making the conditions absolute, Brant had worded the letter so that it contained an appeal to the Americans to negotiate their differences with the tribes.

The compromise, dictated by Brant, did not set well either with the Indians nor with their British allies. The Shawnees were espe-

cially hostile, but Brant tried to negate their opposition by charging them with the responsibility of delivering the letter to the American officials. The Shawnees did not hurry to deliver a letter that contained what they saw as a compromise of the Indian's resolution, and the letter did not arrive in Philadelphia until the 18th of July 1787.

The delay made no difference. Congress had other matters to attend to and failed to make any response until after Arthur St. Clair had been appointed governor of the Northwest Territory. Even then it only suggested that St. Clair investigate the Indian's attitudes toward a cession of Ohio land.

In the meantime, other things were happening that were to have a bearing on the occupation of the Territory. During the winter of 1787-88 Rufus Putman and his followers headed west to occupy the land they had purchased from Congress. They arrived at Fort Harmer on April 7, 1788. Then moving across the Muskingum River they founded the town of Merritta.

In 1787 the Federal Government held its first auction of public land in New York City. The results were less than sensational. Only 73,000 acres were sold. Uncertainties about the Indian problem was given as the reason for the lack of bidding.

In the following year, John Cleves Symmes contracted to buy 1 million acres of Ohio land and started to recruit settlers. In November, 1788 the Symmes settlers founded the settlement of Columbus near the mouth of the Little Miami River. A month later, they founded a second settlement opposite Licking River on the Ohio and named it Losantiville. In 1780 the name Losantiville was changed to Cincinnati.

The new settlements had not escaped notice by the Indians and in 1788 they met for the second time to decide what should be done about them. The determination that had characterized their feelings at Hurontown had eroded. There were now deep divisions among the various tribes and even among the different factions within single tribes.

After a survey of the situation, Joseph Brant was discouraged. He knew that the Indian had no chance of stemming the tide of white settlement unless they were united and advised the Indians to yield to some of the white demands rather than start a war they were certain to lose. The meeting ended without any agreement being reached, but the Shawnees and the Miamis left the meeting determined to fight independently of other tribes to drive the settlers out of the Northwest.

In 1789 General Harmer built a fort near Cincinnati and named it Fort Washington after the Nation's newly inaugurated President. Harmer's force was so weak that he dared not to venture far from the walls of the new fort, and the Indians continued to take a heavy toll of settlers' lives.

The seriousness of the Indian stand against the white settlements in the Ohio Country can be seen in a letter Henry Ines, a Federal Judge for the District of Kentucky, wrote to Washington's Secretary of War, Henry Knox. In the letter written in 1790, Ines estimated that Indians had killed over 1,500 settlers since the Revolution. Today, most historians believe that Ines' estimate was much too conservative. In the face of the threat to settlement, Secretary Knox ordered General Harmer to march against the Indians.

General Harmer started to gather reinforcements at Fort Washington in preparation for an attack on a group of Miami towns situated on a portage between the Maumee and the Wabash Rivers. This is the site of present-day Fort Wayne, Indiana. This portage was vital to wilderness trade and was a major Indian travel route. By a portage across a narrow strip of land between the two rivers, one could travel by canoe from the mouth of the St. Lawrence River to the mouth of the Mississippi. The only other portage that would be required for such a journey would be a short one around Niagara Falls.

Things did not go well for General Harmer. Army contractors failed to deliver supplies on time or in the amount he had been promised, Pennsylvania did not

send its full quota of militia, and the Kentucky militia were poorly trained and some even did not have arms.

When Harmer marched out of Fort Washington on September 30 with approximately 1,500 men, less than one-third were regular army troops.

In Detroit, the British Commander studied a report stating that Harmer was marching north with a force of 8,000 men. The Commander did not think to question the accuracy of the report. Governor St. Clair had written a letter to the Commander outlining the objectives of the American campaign. St. Clair's purpose was to forestall the possibility that the British might react on the belief that the campaign was directed against the forts they occupied inside the American Territory. However, both the British and the Indians reasoned that a military force willing to announce its objectives beforehand must indeed be formidable.

That false rumor turned out to be the one stroke of luck that General Harmer was to have during the campaign. Instead of getting ready to fight, the Indians scurried to get out of the path of the troops.

Neither Harmer nor his men knew about the rumor and were thoroughly puzzled over the lack of Indian opposition. They reached their destination without encountering any hostile force, and found the towns between the headwaters of the two rivers deserted. The only sign that there were Indians in the area was the fact that the Army was having its horses stolen to the point that its movements were being hampered.

Harmer's men burned five Indian villages and destroyed a quantity of corn, but the men were disappointed because they had come so far without experiencing any action. At this time a Colonel Hardin asked permission to lead a reconnaissance force out of the main camp in hopes of catching a party of Indians and forcing it to stand and fight.

During the time that Harmer's forces had marched north, Little Turtle, the war chief of the

Miamis, had been watching. He soon realized that the reports about the size of Harmer's army were grossly exaggerated. His warriors were scattered, but he had managed to gather about 100 men and was waiting for a chance to attack.

Hardin's small force detaching itself from the main body of troops was just the opportunity he had been waiting for. When the reconnaissance force was several miles away from the main camp, Little Turtle's warriors struck from ambush. The surprise was stunning; the results were deadly.

Most of Hardin's force were raw militia, and when the Indians attacked, they ran like rabbits. Of thirty regulars who stood and fought, only 8 were left to return to the main camp; of the militia that ran, seventy were pulled down in mid-flight and slaughtered by the Indians.

The engagement was a humiliating way to end a campaign, but Harmer decided that it was time to return to Fort Washington. A few days later, while in retreat, Colonel Hardin asked for an opportunity to redeem himself. His plan was to slip back along the trail and surprise the Indians as they returned to their burned-out towns. Again permission was granted, but it was the Indians who arranged the surprise.

Once more the militia was routed, and the regulars were cut to pieces. Harmer was forced to continue his withdrawal with a total loss of 183 men.

Despite his losses, Harmer felt that in burning the Indian villages, he had struck a telling blow that justified him to claim a victory. The Indians were just as sure that they had won the victory. Insofar as the settlers were concerned, it was the Indian attitude that counted. The Indians reasoned that if 100 men could wreak such havoc on the American Army, they had nothing to fear. Their confidence was renewed, and they renewed their attacks on the settlements with new vigor.

Public Land Sales



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

ALASKA:
555 Cordova St.
Anchorage, Alaska
99501
District Manager
P.O. Box 1150
Fairbanks, Alaska
99701

ARIZONA:
Federal Bldg.,
Room 3022
Phoenix, Ariz. 85025

CALIFORNIA:
2800 Cottage Way,
Room E-2841
Sacramento, Calif.
95825

COLORADO:
1600 Broadway
Room 700
Denver, Colo. 80202

IDAHO:
Federal Bldg.,
Room 334
550 W. Fort St.
Boise, Idaho 83702

**MONTANA (N. Dak.,
S. Dak.):**
Federal Bldg.
316 North 26th St.
Billings, Mont. 59101

NEVADA:
Federal Bldg.,
300 Booth St.
Reno, Nev. 89502

NEW MEXICO (Okla.):
Federal Bldg.
P.O. Box 1449
Sante Fe, N. Mex.
87501

OREGON (Washington):
729 Northeast
Oregon St.
P.O. Box 2965
Portland, Oreg. 97208

UTAH:
Federal Bldg.
125 South State St.
P.O. Box 11505
Salt Lake City, Utah
84111

**WYOMING (Nebr.,
Kans.):**
2120 Capitol Ave.
P.O. Box 1828
Cheyenne, Wyo.
82001

**EASTERN STATES (All
Other States):**
7981 Eastern Avenue
Silver Spring, Md.
20910

CALIFORNIA

5½ acres, 21 miles SE King City, Monterey County. Gentle topography. Sandy soil suitable for irrigation. No public road access. Appraised value \$2,200. For further information contact California State Office, refer to S 4779. Sale 10 a.m., November 18.

NEVADA

2.15 acres, in City of Tonapah in Nye County. Elevation 6,160 feet. Land slopes to north, legal access and utilities. Appraised value \$3,650. For further information contact Nevada State Office. Sale 1 p.m. October 27.

120 acres, approximately 48 miles NE Wells in NE portion of Elko County. Access by unimproved trails, no utilities. Appraised value \$12,900. Patents to this tract will be conditional. Contact the Nevada State Office for details and further information. Sale October 27.

NEW MEXICO

4 tracts totaling 148.18 acres to be sold separately, about 7 miles SSW Silver City, central portion of Grant County from 100 feet to 1.5 miles east of State Highway 90. No legal access. Topography is hilly to rolling hills. Native grasses and shrubs. Tract #1, 71.19 acres appraised at \$25,000; Tract #2, 57.79 acres appraised at \$20,250; Tract #3, 19.18 acres appraised at \$6,725; Tract #4, .02 acres appraised at \$25. For further information write New Mexico State Office. Sale in September.

WYOMING

120 acres sold in two tracts. 20 miles NE Douglas in Converse County. Moderate to steeply rolling, not suitable for cultivation. Access by country road to one tract, no access to other. Contact Wyoming State Office for appraised value, date of sale and further information. Sale after November 1.

OREGON

40 acres, 3 miles W, Hermiston in Umatilla County. Agricultural potential. Legal access. Appraised value \$17,700. Patent will be conditional. For further information contact Oregon State Office, refer to OR 13996. Sale November 9.

This is a compilation of the most up-to-date information possible on up-coming sales of public lands by State Offices of the Bureau of Land Management. For details of land descriptions, prices, and other information pertinent to sales, you must write the individual State Office concerned. In most cases, there are adjoining land-owners who have statutory preference rights and may wish to exercise them to buy the land. Sales notices will point out, insofar as possible, problems relating to (1) access, (2) adjoining owner preference rights, (3) small-tract sales limitation of one per customer, and other pertinent information. When possible, all sales are scheduled far enough in advance so ample notice can be given in Our Public Lands. Sales listed can be canceled on short notice for administrative and technical reasons. A listing of BLM State Offices with addresses is found on the opposite page.

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